



EQUITY & ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

The Environmental Justice Fund 2019

A program of the City of Seattle. Administered by The Bullitt Foundation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What types of projects will the Environmental Justice Fund support?

We are open to your ideas. We welcome everything from pilot projects to existing projects that can be strengthened with support from the Environmental Justice Fund. Projects should include community-defined solutions that improve environmental and community conditions and respond to impacts of climate change. Projects can be focused on capacity building, ongoing visioning, community education, collaboration or other efforts that address climate preparedness, air quality, food insecurity, green jobs and other environmental and climate justice issues.

Projects that demonstrate a desire to learn, take risks and focus on long-term outcomes are welcomed. We want applicants to be creative and propose interesting approaches they think will be effective in addressing environmental and climate justice issues in their communities. We are very interested in projects that include community, culture, nature, family, health, food and/or education as part of how they address environmental or climate justice.

Projects should be led by and benefit the people most affected by these issues: communities of color, immigrants, refugees and Native people – including people with low incomes, youth and seniors – who live, learn, work, worship and play in the City of Seattle.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Applicants to the Environmental Justice Fund **must** meet these criteria:

- The applicant has 501(c)3 nonprofit status or has a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)3 nonprofit status. **If you do not have a fiscal sponsor, please contact us at ejfrfp@gmail.com as soon as possible.**
- Projects must be held within Seattle city limits and primarily benefit people who live, learn, work, worship and play in Seattle.

What other qualities are you looking for in the groups that apply?

Applicants to the Environmental Justice Fund should be able to demonstrate that:

- Racial justice is a lived organizational value.
- Operations include a decision-making role for communities of color, immigrants, refugees and/or Native people – including people with low incomes, youth and seniors.
- They have a deep understanding about environmental justice and are able to describe what environmental justice means for their community.
- They have an understanding of the nuances of working with and within communities of people of color, immigrants, refugees and/or Native people.
- There are deep relationships with and accountability to communities of people of color, immigrants, refugees and/or Native people.

Will there be any information or help sessions, in case I have questions?

Yes. We are holding two information sessions and an information conference call to provide applicants an opportunity to ask questions about the proposal process. (Attendance at an information session is not required.) RSVP to an information session and/or conference call here: bit.ly/2NXm6FG.

Information Session 1:

6:00-7:30pm on Thursday, August 15, 2019

Northgate Branch - Seattle Public Library (10548 Fifth Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98125)

Interpretation provided.

Information Session 2:

6:00-7:30pm on Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Columbia Branch (Columbia City) - Seattle Public Library (4721 Rainier Avenue S, Seattle, WA 98118)

Interpretation provided.

Information Conference Call:

12:00-1:00pm on Wednesday, August 28, 2019

* call-in number – 206-386-1200

* conference id – 9024128#

We are also offering an individual help session for applicants to talk to us in person about the proposal they are preparing. (Attendance at this help session is not required.) If you have questions about the idea you are proposing or would like some help understanding the proposal questions or materials, please sign up for a 20-minute in-person meeting with us.

This help session will take place:

4:30-7:30pm on Wednesday, September 4, 2019

Beacon Hill Branch - Seattle Public Library (2821 Beacon Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98144)

To participate in the help session, you **must** sign up for a 20-minute time slot by selecting an option here: bit.ly/2Shvu5B.

If my organization received a grant from the Environmental Justice Fund in 2018, can we submit a proposal in the 2019 grant cycle?

No. Because the grant period for the 2018 grants is still active (until June 2020) and because we strive to reach many different organizations and communities, organizations that received grants in 2018 are not eligible to apply this year.

Can an individual apply?

No. The Fund cannot award grants to individuals. Applicants must either have 501(c)3 nonprofit status or have a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)3 nonprofit status. **If you need a fiscal sponsor, but do not yet have one, please email ejfrfp@gmail.com as soon as possible.**

Do I have to be a nonprofit organization to apply?

Applicants must either have 501(c)3 nonprofit status or have a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)3 nonprofit status. **If you have questions about how to find a fiscal sponsor, please email ejfrfp@gmail.com as soon as possible.**

Can youth apply for funding?

Yes, as long as the applicant group has 501(c)3 nonprofit status or has a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)3 nonprofit status.

My office is in Burien, but the community my group serves is based in Seattle. Can we apply?

Yes. If your office is located outside of Seattle, you can apply if your project takes place within Seattle city limits AND primarily benefits people who live, learn, work, worship and play in Seattle.

Can a collaborative submit a proposal?

Yes. But, one group in the collaborative must serve as the applicant group.

How much money can I request?

The minimum grant award is \$10,000. The maximum grant award is \$40,000.

Can I submit my proposal in a language other than English?

All written proposal materials must be submitted in English. Oral presentation meetings will be conducted in English, and we will be happy to provide an interpreter, if requested. If you would like an interpreter at your oral presentation, please let us know in the 'About This Request' section in the application document.

Do I have to do an oral presentation?

This is not required, but we strongly encourage all applicants to take advantage of this opportunity. We are offering this for applicants who would like the chance to talk in person with the Grantmaking Committee about their project. These in-person oral presentations are in addition to – and not in place of – written applications. If an applicant is interested in an oral presentation, they must make themselves available during the dates and times offered by the Committee in October – sometime between October 7-25, 2019. Presentation meetings will be conducted in English, and interpreters will be provided, if requested. We will contact you with scheduling options.

How do I ask for an interpreter for my presentation?

If you would like an interpreter at your oral presentation, please let us know in the 'About This Request' section in the application document. In that form, tell us:

- if you would like an interpreter; and
- the language for which you request interpretation.

Can I submit more than one proposal?

Only one application per nonprofit organization is allowed, except if the nonprofit organization is serving as a fiscal sponsor for multiple projects.

Can I act as a fiscal sponsor for another organization and submit an application on behalf of my own organization?

Yes, you can be a fiscal sponsor for another group and submit an application on behalf of your own organization.

How long should my proposal be?

The narrative section should be no more than six pages. The application cover sheet, project budget and attachments do not count towards this six-page limit.

Are grants for general operating or for projects?

The Fund will make grants for both general operating and for projects, as long as the activities in the proposal are directly focused on environmental justice outcomes.

Will you fund existing projects?

Yes. (But, please note that organizations that received a grant in 2018 from the Environmental Justice Fund are not eligible to apply in 2019.)

If we receive a grant, how often will we need to submit a report?

The reporting schedule is as follows:

- April 1, 2020 – A preliminary project check-in will take place.
- September 1, 2020 – A mid-point check-in will take place.
- July 30, 2021 – The final report will be due.

Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment’s Equity and Environment Initiative will communicate with grantees about reporting requirements.

In addition to these check-ins and reports, there will also be Learning Circle meetings that will provide opportunities for grantees to share their work, problem-solve and build community with each other.

I would like to learn more about the Equity & Environment Agenda. Where can I find more information?

The Equity & Environment Agenda is a blueprint for advancing race and social justice in Seattle’s environmental work. It serves as a call to action for different sectors to work together with communities of color, immigrants, refugees and Native people to advance environmental equity in Seattle. It has four goals:

- Healthy Environments for All – Improving air, water, green space, food, safety and quality of life.
- Jobs, Local Economies and Youth Pathways – Creating opportunities for local green careers.
- Equity in Environmental Programs – Increasing community access and decision-making.
- Environmental Narrative and Community Leadership – Celebrating stories and investing in community.

The Agenda focuses on geographic areas where communities of color, immigrants, refugees and Native people – including people with low incomes, youth and seniors – tend to live. These areas are highly impacted by socio-economic and environmental challenges.

The Agenda includes strategies to guide the development of policies and programs to address cumulative burdens of environmental and socio-economic challenges. These include:

- Aligning work across local, state and federal agencies, city departments, philanthropic communities, community-based organizations, and local environmental organizations to target investments in areas where communities of color, immigrants, refugees and Native people live, work, learn, and play.
- Prioritizing building community capacity to reduce exposure to identified environmental hazards, and improving health issues due to those hazards, while increasing climate resiliency. Efforts should also increase community ownership of solutions and create new environmental programs that focus on avoiding displacement and alleviating poverty.

Learn more about the Equity & Environment Initiative [here](#). On this page, you can download the Equity & Environment Agenda, which is available in [繁體中文 \(Chinese\)](#), [English](#), [Soomaali \(Somali\)](#), [Español \(Spanish\)](#) and [Tiếng Việt \(Vietnamese\)](#).

If I have questions about the application, whom do I contact?

Please email us at ejfrfp@gmail.com. While we cannot help you write your proposal, we are happy to answer questions, provide feedback and help you understand the application and the application process.